

role in the House's ethics process. Our fundamental goals are to further enhance the openness of the House to make this institution more responsive to the public, and to bolster citizen confidence in Congress.

LEE HAMILTON and I developed this proposal during our service as House co-chairmen of the 1993 Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. Our resolution is based on the testimony of many Members and outside experts about the strengths and weaknesses of the current ethics process.

Let me first make a comment about LEE HAMILTON's recent announcement that this will be his last term in Congress. LEE's retirement will be a big loss to this institution and the American people. He has been a model legislator for us all, and I wish him all the best in whatever activity he chooses to pursue when he leaves the House. In the meantime, I am delighted to join with LEE once again in our mutual interest to improve the work and reputation of the legislative branch.

Specifically, House Resolution 61 would make several important changes in the House ethics process. First, it would authorize the Speaker and minority leader to appoint jointly 20 independent fact finders at the beginning of each Congress. These private citizens could then be called upon to conduct ethics investigations for the Standards of Official Conduct Committee. The definition of private citizens includes, among others, former Members, staff aides, and officers of Congress, but not lobbyists.

Second House Resolution 61 grants discretionary authority to the Ethics Committee to decide, on a case-by-case basis, when to request that private citizens be used to conduct investigations involving allegations of ethical misconduct. Our resolution provides that an even number of fact finders—four or six—shall be appointed jointly from the standby pool by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Standards Committee. Daily pay, travel, and per diem costs are provided the fact finders when they are engaged in ethics investigative work. Staff aides of the Standards Committee are authorized to assist the fact finders in carrying out their responsibilities.

Third, the job of the fact finders is to conduct a preliminary review of the ethical complaint. They are to make the detailed inquiries, accumulate relevant background materials, gather pertinent evidence, and so on—all activities that usually consume enormous amounts of time. A benefit that inheres in the Hamilton-Dreier approach to ethics reform is that it will alleviate time burdens on members who will not have to do this pick and shovel investigative work. Another benefit is to increase public confidence that allegations of ethical misconduct are being fully and independently explored.

Fourth, after the preliminary review of the ethics complaint has been completed, the private citizens would report their finds and recommendations to the full Ethics Committee. If the fact finders determine that their findings justify further formal action by the Ethics Committee, they may, by majority vote, transmit a statement of alleged violations to the ethics panel.

Finally, in the event that a statement of alleged violations is sent to the Ethics Committee, that panel will then act as an adjudicatory subcommittee as provided in the Committee's rules. The full Ethics Committee will then con-

duct its own review of the information transmitted to it by the fact finders, including, if required, the convening of public hearings.

In our judgment, House Resolution 61 provides an innovative and flexible approach to revamping the House's ethics process. On those high profile and complex cases, the Ethics Committee can turn to a pool of private citizens to conduct the investigations. For ethics complaints that appear minor, the committee can continue to appoint its own subcommittee to conduct the preliminary inquiry.

Everyone who serves in Congress understands that public trust in the legislative branch is not especially high. To be sure, many factors have contributed to this development, such as heightened cynicism in the body politic, but public misgivings about how Congress handles ethical charges against its own Members also contribute to the lack of citizen confidence. This institution must devote more time and attention to congressional ethics, which is why I strongly endorse the recent establishment of a bipartisan House ethics task force to revise and improve our ethics process. This initiative by our Republican and Democratic leaders deserves everyone's support and encouragement.

Members and citizens alike have a large stake in an improved ethics process. The strength of representative government rests fundamentally on public confidence in the integrity of our proceedings. In our view, there is an inherent conflict-of-interest when only members are involved in evaluating ethics complaints against their peers. House Resolution 61 will address this issue by allowing private citizens to assist in ethics investigations on a case-by-case basis. Adoption of our resolution will further demonstrate that the House and its Members care deeply about improving and strengthening their ethical processes and responsibilities.

FOR THE RELIEF OF FRANK NOTREM

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the assistance of all my colleagues in aiding a constituent in my district, Mr. Frank Notrem.

Mr. Notrem is now 82 years old. Before World War II he was in the National Guard; when the war broke out he went to Europe to fight. In all, he served in the Army for 40 years.

In civilian life he has dedicated his life to his community, serving as a member of the Chelsea Fire Department for 32 years.

Seventeen years ago, Mr. Notrem was injured on the job, breaking both his legs. He was forced to retire due to those injuries.

At that time, Mr. Notrem's wife, concerned about the hospital bills that would soon come due, hid 10 of Mr. Notrem's veteran's checks, totaling \$8,242.20. She hid them so well that she forgot where they were. It was only recently that they were discovered after Mrs. Notrem passed away and her children were cleaning up the house.

Though the money is owed, the checks are no longer valid. Nonetheless, I believe this Na-

tion owes Mr. Notrem a debt of gratitude for his service. Therefore, I have introduced legislation requiring the Treasury Department to pay Mr. Notrem the \$8,242.20 he is owed.

Please join me in meeting our obligations to Mr. Notrem.

SAN DIEGO HOSPICE: 20 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to San Diego Hospice. In 1977, local citizens, clergy members, and medical professionals, motivated by a shared concern for the plight of terminally ill patients, joined together to create the San Diego Hospice.

As one of the first hospice programs in the country, San Diego Hospice set the standard by which we provide care for the terminally ill and their families. Now caring for more than 1,600 people a year, San Diego Hospice is not only an integral part of our regional health care system, it is an innovator, constantly working to better its outreach and care.

San Diego Hospice has effectively employed San Diego's large medical community to foster education, and it was the first hospice to bring palliative medicine into the curriculum of a medical school—the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine.

San Diego Hospice continues to develop cutting edge programs that serve as an example to other hospices. These include the Acute Care Center, the Center for Palliative Studies, and exceptional programs in pediatrics and bereavement support.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day the San Diego Hospice brightens the lives of terminally ill patients and their loved ones. San Diego has been blessed by the care provided by the San Diego Hospice, and I am sure that it will continue to serve as an excellent model of people helping people and working together for the betterment of their shared community.

SALUTING BEVERLY BRITTON FRASER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the many years of invaluable community service of Beverly Britton Fraser, Esq. Ms. Britton Fraser, an attorney, has committed her life to winning justice for the poor. Despite numerous opportunities offered by corporate law firms and government agencies, Ms. Britton Fraser, a University of Buffalo School of Law graduate, has zealously worked as a trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society.

This native Brooklynite was also a "Partner in Education." As such, she visited inner-city schools and talked with students of all ages about her profession, substance abuse avoidance, and attaining personal goals through education. As a person who has always been